

CONFIDENTIALOCA
INCOMING

/19/

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
IMMEDIATE

FRP: ,2, ,4, , , ,

STATE

25X1

88 8573140 SCD

PAGE 001
TOR: 141553Z APR 88NC 8573140
NASSAU 02225

00 RUEAIIB
ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH
UTS2713
00 RUEHC
DE RUEHBH #2225 1051536
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 141536Z APR 88
FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9860
BT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ NASSAU 02225

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, SNAR, BF
SUBJECT: GCOB REACTION TO SENATE COMMITTEE'S DECERTIFI-
CATION VOTE

REF: NASSAU 2174

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. AT PRIVATE LUNCH ON APRIL 13, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER/
FOREIGN MINISTER CLEMENT MAYNARD EXPRESSED TO THE AMB-
ASSADOR THE GCOB'S SHOCK AND ANGER OVER THE SENATE FOREIGN
RELATIONS COMMITTEE'S VOTE RECOMMENDING DECERTIFICATION
OF THE BAHAMAS. MAYNARD SAID THAT DURING HIS MEETING
WITH SECRETARY SHULTZ HE HAD BEEN ASSURED THAT ALL WAS
WELL AND COULD NOT UNDERSTAND HOW THE U.S. CONGRESS
COULD NOT RECOGNIZE THE BAHAMAS OUTSTANDING COOPERATION
IN DRUG INTERDICTION EFFORTS. MAYNARD SAID THAT AS OF
NOW, HE WILL HAVE TO REEVALUATE HIS VIEW OF THE U.S.,
SINCE IT APPEARED THAT U.S. LAWMAKERS WERE NOT DEALING
FAIRLY WITH THE BAHAMAS. MAYNARD, BACKED UP DURING THE
LUNCH BY MFA PERMANENT SECRETARY BASIL O'BRIEN, UNDER
SECRETARY GEORGE STEWART, AND ECONOMIC ADVISOR TERRY
BUTLER, ASSERTED THAT THE VOTE WAS FURTHER PROOF OF U.S.
WILLINGNESS TO MISTREAT COUNTRIES IT VIEWED AS BLACK
AND/OR POOR THAT WERE UNDER ITS THUMB. HE ALSO CLAIMED
THAT THE 1987 INCSR REPORT, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS INAC-
CURATE AND VERY DAMAGING, WAS THE MAIN REASON FOR SENA-
TORS TO VOTE AGAINST THE BAHAMAS.

3. THE AMBASSADOR REJECTED THE PRIME MINISTER'S ASSER-
TIONS BUT NEVERTHELESS EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING FOR THE
GCOB'S PERPLEXITY IN VIEW OF THE OUTSTANDING OPERATIONAL
COOPERATION WE HAVE RECEIVED IN RECENT MONTHS. SHE
EXPLAINED THAT HER CONTACTS ON THE HILL HAD INFORMED HER
THAT LEHDER TRIAL TESTIMONY AND GORMAN BANNISTER'S TES-
TIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE LAST YEAR, RATHER THAN
THE INCSR REPORT, HAD DONE THE MOST DAMAGE TO THE
BAHAMAS' POSITION. SHE FURTHER INFORMED MAYNARD THAT
ATTORNEY GENERAL ADDERLEY'S INSULTING REMARKS OF LAST
WEEK (REFTEL) HAD BEEN PICKED UP BY A CONGRESSIONAL
CLIPPING SERVICE AND DID NOT ENDEAR THE BAHAMAS TO ANY-
ONE WHO HAD READ THE NEWS REPORT. THE AMBASSADOR EX-
PRESSED HER PROFOUND DISPLEASURE WITH ADDERLEY'S RECENT
ATTACKS ON THE U.S. AND BLUNTLY TOLD MAYNARD THAT THE
MAN SHOULD BE MUZZLED BEFORE HE DOES FURTHER HARM TO
THE BAHAMAS' IMAGE ABROAD. SHE ALSO INFORMED THE MINIS-
TER THAT THE EMBASSY WOULD BE PROVIDING SOON VIA DIPLO-

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

88 8573140 SCO

PAGE 002
TOR: 141553Z APR 88

NC 8573140
NASSAU 02225

MATIC NOTE A COMPLETE ACCOUNTING OF OPBAT'S 1987 DRUG SEIZURES.

4. FOLLOWING THE LUNCHEON, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ISSUED A NEWS RELEASE CALLING THE SENATE COMMITTEE'S ACTION "OUTRAGEOUS" AND DECLARING THAT EFFORTS TO DECERTIFY THE BAHAMAS WOULD THREATEN THE BEST BILATERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION ON DRUG INTERDICTION IN THE WORLD. THE MINISTRY'S STATEMENT CLAIMED THAT THE BAHAMAS HAS EXPENDED MANPOWER AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES IN THE DRUG WAR WHICH HAVE EXCEEDED ON A PER CAPITA BASIS THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ANY OTHER ALLY OF THE U.S. IT ALSO SCORED THE U.S. FOR PERSISTENTLY CHARGING SYSTEMATIC GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION WHILE FAILING TO PRESENT ANY SUCH EVIDENCE. THE MINISTRY NOTED THAT THE BAHAMAS IS THE ONLY COUNTRY WHICH PERMITS U.S. LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND THEIR SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT TO ENTER HER TERRITORY IN HOT PURSUIT OF DRUG CRIMINALS AND FURTHER EXPRESSED THE BAHAMIAN PEOPLE'S RESENTMENT AT HAVING THEIR COUNTRY COMPARED TO SUCH MAJOR DRUG PRODUCERS AS MEXICO, COLOMBIA, JAMAICA, PERU, PARAGUAY AND BOLIVIA. THE NOTICE CONCLUDED, HOWEVER, WITH A STATEMENT THAT THE BAHAMAS REMAINS COMMITTED TO THE WAR ON DRUGS AND WILL PERSIST IN ITS EFFORTS WITH OR WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF THE U.S. CONGRESS.

5. COMMENT: THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND HIS COLLEAGUES WERE DISTRESSED, AND BEWILDERED AT THE SENATE COMMITTEE'S VOTE, AND DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO NEXT. MAYNARD EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE AMBASSADOR'S EFFORTS IN CONTACTING SENATORS TO EXPLAIN THE EFFORTS THE GCOB HAS MADE IN THE DRUG WAR. MAYNARD DIDN'T SAY MUCH ABOUT ADDERLEY'S HARMFUL BEHAVIOR. (THE AMBASSADOR WILL REINFORCE HER VIEWS ON HIS UNTIMELY AND UNWARRANTED ATTACKS AT HER MEETING NEXT TUESDAY WITH PRIME MINISTER PINDLING.) THE BAHAMIAN MEDIA HAS GIVEN WIDE PRESS COVERAGE TO THE VOTE BUT PUBLIC DENUNCIATIONS OF THE SENATE ACTION HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY MUTE SO FAR. THIS COULD CHANGE, HOWEVER, IF THE PRIME MINISTER, STILL SPEAKING IN THE HOUSE TO REFUTE CHARGES AGAINST HIM ARISING FROM THE LEHDER TRIAL, DECIDES TO ATTEMPT TO DIVERT ATTENTION BY DENOUNCING THE COMMITTEE'S VOTE AND ATTACKING THE U.S. HALLETT
END OF MESSAGE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL